

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of forming an industrial fabric comprising the steps of:

providing a laminated substrate or base structure formed by forming separately a number of layers;

joining the layers together by warp knitted or stitch bonded binder yarns, wherein at least one of the layers is a reinforcing layer and at least one of the layers is a layer for inhibiting flow-through of coatings to be applied to one or both sides of the substrate or base structure; and

using the substrate or base structure as the support structure of a long nip press or other papermaking belt.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least two of the layers are reinforcing layers separated by a layer for inhibiting flow-through of coatings to be applied to one or both sides of the substrate or base structure.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the binder yarns form a matrix of loops above a surface of the substrate or base structure and serve as bonding points for anchoring the coatings applied thereto.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the layers and binder yarns has an adhesive affinity for at least one of the coatings.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the matrix of yarn loops improves the structural stability of the substrate or base structure.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, including the step of coating only one side of the substrate or base structure.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, including the step of coating both sides of the substrate or base structure.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, including the step of coating both sides of the substrate or base structure with the same coating.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, including the step of coating at least one side of the substrate or base structure with a rubber coating.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, including the step of coating the substrate or base structure on a first side thereof with a first polymer type and coating a second side thereof with a second polymer different than the first polymer.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, including the step of forming the substrate or base structure in strips of material which are ultimately spiral wound to form a base support structure having a width greater than a width of the strips.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of any of claims 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, comprising the further step of forming a plurality of grooves on the ~~non-shoe-side~~ surface of the coated substrate or base structure.

13. (Original) The method of any of claims 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, comprising the further step of forming a plurality of blind drilled holes on the surface of the coated substrate or base structure.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one reinforcing layer comprises multi-filament or monofilament yarns.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the flow-inhibiting layer is made by one of spun bonded, wet laid and air laid processes.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the flow-inhibiting layer is a nonwoven scrim, extruded mesh, or extruded or cast porous or nonporous film.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the coating to be applied to the substrate or base structure is polymeric or rubber.

19. (Currently Amended) An industrial fabric comprising a laminated substrate or base struc-

ture, said laminated substrate or base structure comprising: a number of separately formed layers; said layers joined together by warp knitted or stitch bonded yarns; wherein at least one of the layers is a reinforcing layer and at least one of the layers is a layer for inhibiting flow-through of coatings to be applied to one or both sides of the substrate or base structure, wherein the substrate or base structure is used as the support structure of a long nip press or other papermaking belt.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The substrate or base structure of claim 19~~ The fabric of claim 19, wherein at least two of the layers are reinforcing layers separated by a layer for inhibiting flow-through of coatings to be applied to one or both sides of the substrate or base structure.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The substrate or base structure of claim 19~~ The fabric of claim 19, wherein the binder yarns form a matrix of loops above a surface of said substrate or base structure and serve as bonding points for anchoring the coatings to said substrate or base structure.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~The substrate or base structure of claim 19~~ The fabric of claim 19, wherein at least one of the layers and binder yarns has an adhesive affinity for at least one of the coatings.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~The substrate or base structure~~ fabric of claim 21, wherein the matrix of yarn loops improves the structural integrity thereof.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~The substrate or base structure of claim 19~~ The fabric of claim 19,

wherein only one side of the substrate or base structure is coated.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~The substrate or base structure of claim 19~~ The fabric of claim 19,
wherein both sides of the substrate or base structure are coated.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~The substrate or base structure of claim 19~~ The fabric of claim 19,
wherein both sides of the substrate or base structure are coated with the same coating.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~The substrate or base structure of claim 19~~ The fabric of claim 19,
wherein the substrate or base structure is coated on a first side with a first polymeric type and
coated on a second side with a second polymer different than the first polymer.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~The substrate or base structure of claim 19~~ The fabric of claim 19,
wherein the substrate or base structure is formed in strips of material which are ultimately spiral
wound to form a base support structure having a width greater than a width of the strips.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~The coated substrate or base substrate of~~ fabric according to any of
claims 24, 25, 26 and 27, wherein the ~~non-shoe side~~ surface thereof includes a plurality of
grooves.

30. (Currently Amended) ~~The substrate or base substrate of~~ fabric according to any of claims 24,
25, 26 and 27, wherein a surface thereof includes a plurality of blind holes.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) ~~The substrate or base structure of claim 19~~ The fabric of claim 19, wherein at least one reinforcing layer comprises multifilament or monofilament yarns.

33. (Currently Amended) ~~The substrate or base structure of claim 19~~ The fabric of claim 19, wherein the flow-inhibiting layer is made by one of spun bonded, wet laid and air laid processes.

34. (Currently Amended) ~~The substrate or base structure of claim 19~~ The fabric of claim 19, wherein the flow-inhibiting layer is a nonwoven scrim, extruded mesh, or extruded or cast porous or nonporous film.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~The substrate or base structure of claim 19~~ The fabric of claim 19, wherein the resin to be applied to the substrate or base structure is polymeric or a rubber like compound.

36. (New) A method of forming an industrial fabric comprising the steps of:

providing a laminated substrate or base structure formed by forming separately a number of layers;

joining the layers together by warp knitted or stitch bonded binder yarns, wherein at least one of the layers is a reinforcing layer and at least one of the layers is a layer for inhibiting flow-through of coatings applied to one or both surfaces of the substrate or base structure; and

forming a plurality of grooves or blind drilled holes on the surface of the coated substrate or base structure.

37. (New) An industrial fabric comprising a laminated substrate or base structure, said laminated substrate or base structure comprising: a number of separately formed layers; said layers joined together by warp knitted or stitch bonded yarns; wherein at least one of the layers is a reinforcing layer and at least one of the layers is a layer for inhibiting flow-through of coatings to be applied to one or both surfaces of the substrate or base structure, wherein the surface thereof includes a plurality of grooves or blind drilled holes.